

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
9 December 2004 (09.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/107449 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H01L 29/78**,
29/739, 29/06, 21/336, 21/331, 27/02, 29/861

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/001791

(22) International Filing Date: 21 May 2004 (21.05.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0312514.3 31 May 2003 (31.05.2003) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
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TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

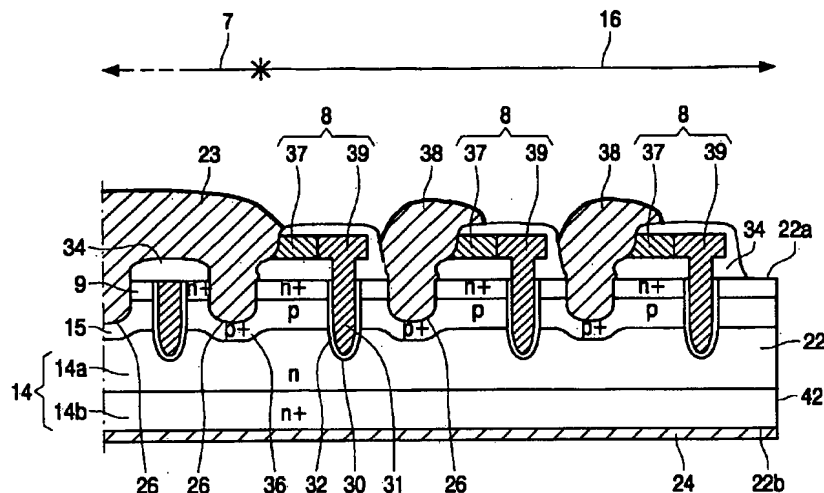
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted
a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE,
AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **TERMINATION STRUCTURES FOR SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF**



(57) Abstract: A semiconductor device has a semiconductor body (22) comprising an active area (7) and a termination structure (16) surrounding the active area. The termination structure comprises a plurality of lateral transistor devices (2a to 2d) connected in series and extending from the active area towards a peripheral edge (42) of the semiconductor body, with a zener diode (8) connected to the gate electrode (4) of one of the lateral devices for controlling its gate voltage, such that a voltage difference between the active area and the peripheral edge is distributed across the lateral devices and the zener diode. The termination structure (16) is capable of withstanding higher voltages in a compact manner and features thereof are susceptible to fabrication in the same process steps as features of the active area (7).

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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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